



## Carnival regulations are announced by official agencies

This year, the agencies concerned with making Carnival 53 the optimal celebratory experience called a press conference to inform those attending the carnival events that strict regulations to insure everyone's enjoyment will be enforced.

On Friday morning, January 19, Chief Commissioner of Police Peter de Witte held a meeting attended by Deputy Commissioner Trudy Hassel and Papito Comenencia of the police force, Natalie Wolff of SERLIMAR and Ruben Ibarra of the Red Cross.

During the meeting, they each gave guidelines to those that will have trailers or will be selling food or merchandise during the events, and the regulations they must observe to be allowed to do so. Vendors that plan to sell along the public streets must have a valid business certificate from the Kamer van Koophandel (Chamber of Commerce) and from the Aruban Government. Those that plan to set up kitchens on private property must contact the police in their district for permission. The Aruban Fire Department, (Brandweer) will be inspecting both vendors kitchens set up for private use to see that any inflammable materials are safely maintained as is the set-up for cooking.

Deputy Commissioner Hassel announced that there will be three "command posts" during the Grand Parade in Oranjestad, where anyone can report a problem and the agency involved will assist. Help can be found either at the main police station on the Wilhelminastraat, or at the command posts located next to the Talk of the Town Resort or next to the Governor's Residence on the L.G. Smith Boulevard.

The Red Cross will be at the ready to provide care in case of injury or illness, and can provide transportation to the hospital if needed. The police reminded all those planning to attend events to cooperate in letting the Red Cross ambulances get through. Ruben Ibarra reminded the public to wear lots of sun protection and to consume fluids that are non-alcoholic to avoid dehydration in the tropical heat.

Natalie Wolff also reminded the public that SERLIMAR staff will be following the parades to clean up the refuse. In Noord, this will be immediate, in the larger parades in Oranjestad, for about two hours afterwards. She requested the public cooperate in the clean-up effort by collecting their refuse in plastic bags and not littering, facilitating the job of clearing the areas after the events.

Officials also informed the public to practice common sense, not to sit on the roofs of trailers, not to engage in behavior that could result in injury, and to avoid the excessive consumption of alcohol. They were firm in their assertion that any anti-social behavior by groups or individuals will be quashed immediately, and if continued, offenders will be forced to leave the events or will be removed.

A cooperative effort by the island police, the Brandweer, SAC (the Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, the carnival regulatory agency) SERLIMAR and the Red Cross is aimed at insuring that the best party of the year, remains so. Those planning to set-up trailers, or to attend the carnival events as vendors are encouraged to contact their local police district in either Oranjestad, Noord, Santa Cruz or San Nicolas to get their permits and acquaint themselves with the regulations governing these activities. Carnival is a wonderful event that brings many to the island and entails a year of hard work by a number of groups for some fabulous, memorable events; regulating agencies are determined to see that it remains so. The regulations that will insure the safety and enjoyment of all will be strictly enforced.